

LIFE OF MONTY

#61

APRIL 16, 1986
are YOUR taxes done yet?

16 pages
55¢

Remember, if diplomacy had actually worked in the time and place in which DIPLOMACY is supposed to represent, then companies like The Avalon Hill Game Company wouldn't have had to come up with 1914 or RICHTHOFEN'S WAR or THE GUNS OF AUGUST (not to mention all of those WWII titles, probably), and we'd all probably be reading about PBM STATIS-PRO BASEBALL (if that's possible - you can forget about football, insofar as the defense has to be set up for each play, while in baseball the defense stands around in the same places, more or less). However, it didn't, and they did, and so you're reading this issue 61 of LIFE OF MONTY, typed up by Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (415) 461-2692, but after 5 PM (Pacific time) on weekdays and never after 11 PM, except maybe on Friday. For those of you who don't read things like "only call after...." and call whenever you feel like it, listen (read) carefully: anybody who is crazy enough to call after 11:15 on March 8 or April 12 will suffer the SUPREME punishment: yes, YOU will be painfully EXTERMINATED, and THEN reincarnate as a hamster and be forced to live with Woody.... (I go to extremes when somebody interrupts DOCTOR WHO - especially "Day of the Daleks" (March 1 - when first shown in the early 70s, it was the Daleks' first appearance in four years) and "The Three Doctors" (April 12 - the 10th anniversary show, and the only one in the United States (so far) with William Hartnell, the first doctor (albeit only appearing on TV screens in the show)))

TYPED? Yee, I received complaints about last issue. One, from Dick Martin; the other, by me (immediately after I had finished copying about half of the pages - by then, it was too late, and even the "darker" setting on the copier didn't do much good). This time, at least the important stuff is typed.

Well, I'm glad to see that all of you read issue 60, since the alien attack didn't take place. (Well, actually, it did, but the first shot just happened to be in the Florida area, and the resulting explosion exerted just enough force to send the main attack squadrons into a path which trapped them in the gravitational pull of the sun. By some strange coincidence, said explosion took place exactly 3 minutes and 32.7 seconds after the Challenger explosion, so nobody paid much attention to it.) (I'll bet you thought it was the Challenger explosion that the attack created, didn't you?) And now that you're around for issue 61, here's....

MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT is brought to you by Americans for a Grenada Cricket Team, who recently celebrated a Windward Islands victory over the English 11. (Now that the USFL is moving to the fall, the only sports around here are Basketball and Hockey, at least until April, anyway, and who cares about April baseball?)

1830 yee, LOM presents game openings in AH's newest railway game, 1830 (based on the British game 1829). More details when the game is released, which will probably be sometime in March, but that usually means "any time up until ORIGINS". (Those of you reading this that are publishers, would you list this opening in your 'zines in case you have a few lines of space left over for things like this? Well, Pete Doubleday doesn't have to, since I expect as much demand for 1830 over there as for 1829 over here, but the rest of you can earn the usual LOM "thank you" (as much as a CANNON SALUTE even) for spreading the word.

And speaking of that, MARYCON has the honor of hosting DIPCON 86, May 30 to June 1, at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. This is a "variable round" tournament; that is, not everybody has to play in every round, which doesn't penalize those players who happen to have one bad round as much as a fixed-round tournament would, since you can play more rounds in an attempt to "cover up" the bad game. Then again, if you have a few good games, you don't have to play more games which might

botch up your good scores. As long as you play two rounds, you are eligible for the trophies (top three players, plus best countries). In addition, there will be "Vari-MaryCon" (a variant tournament - the variant hasn't been chosen yet, but I've heard Gunboat and various 9-player titles mentioned), the usual beer bash, the selection of the 1987 site (regions I and II - that is, the eastern USA - are eligible), amendments to the DIPCON Charter for future cons (although, according to an amendment passed in 1985, new amendments must be approved by two meetings - that is, two different DIPCON meetings - to be included), and the usual hobby silliness. An application for entry and lodging (if you need it - I recommend the food services there) is included in this issue. If you're worried about meeting me there, I won't be there, since I hardly ever go to Dip-only conventions (actually, MARYCON 1984 was my only one, since it was my first chance to meet the Eastern hobbyists) - I prefer ORIGINS, which I will be attending on July 3-6 in Los Angeles (at the Airport Hilton), although don't expect to see me in the Diplomacy tournament (I may show up for a minute on my way somewhere else - for example, the Dealer Area, the Firepower tournament (like last year - you should have seen John Boardman's face last year when, after a discussion about Californians, I told him who I was), off to eat somewhere, things like that).

Strange - one side of the ORIGINS flyer says LA Airport HILTON, the other LA Airport HYATT. (I was down for a job interview that had me stay at a hotel between The Forum and Hollywood Park once - the track wasn't open and the only team in town that night was the indoor soccer team, which chose that night to play the first 3/4 of the game without either team scoring a goal.) (Yes, but what does that have to do with ORIGINS?)

SHOCK! Gary Coughlan recently told me that EUROPA EXPRESS is slowly winding down to what could be a fold, claiming the usual excuses - too much work, not enough time, things like that. More on this as it develops.

MEANWHILE, I'm STILL looking for one or two new subzines. (All of the EE ones are spoken for, more or less, so don't say "Why don't you ask the EE subzines which may not have a home soon?") I've had one or two "Maybe in the future" from non-writers, but no definite offers yet. Do you know how hard it is to fill 11 pages every five weeks, what with only 2 games? (Three, if and when the Dick Martin game fills, but, knowing how long it takes to fill games in LOM, that may be a while. After all....who reads LOM to play Diplomacy?)

OOPS

I'm innocent this time. Included in this issue is a ballot for the 1986 RUNESTONE POLL, being run for the second straight year by Bruce Linsey. (For those of you who don't truse Linsey for one reason or another, Nelson Heintzmann is also accepting ballots, which will be forwarded - at least the votes will be, anyway - to Bruce.) The instructions appear on the ballot. Why the OOPS? Because Bruce has done it AGAIN - after being chewed out by people like me for what happened last year - ONCE AGAIN, THE SUBZINE "THE THRILL OF AGONY, THE VICTORY OF DEFEAT" (by Julie Martin in RETALIATION) IS NOT ON THE SUBZINE BALLOT! The deadline is June 21, by the way.

AND SPEAKING OF BRUCE....an announcement appears in this issue for his latest idea - a handbook for publishers. After reading what he has to say (how can you read what somebody says?), I think it's a good idea - if potential publishers have an idea of how better 'zines are run, they may pick up a few ideas. However, I do have some reservations (for 4 at 8:00 on 176th Street....).

First of all, although a lot of names are mentioned, I noticed that two of the publishers who "got me started" in the hobby (and have probably influenced, at least a little, the way LOM has turned out) and who are still publishing since 1980 aren't mentioned - Dick Martin and John Caruso. If I have to ask why they aren't mentioned, I'm afraid of how the reception will be to this publication. Second, I disagree with the title of "Beyond Supernova" - any sort of astronomy title will make it look more like a Linsey publication than a hobby one, and this shouldn't be dominated by any one person. (Twenty new 'zines would be nice - but not twenty clones of THE VOICE OF DOOM or any other 'zine.) And, while you're at it, Bruce, remember that Rod Walker's name does not appear on the cover of THE GAMER'S GUIDE TO DIPLOMACY.

All right - who said "Putting Linsey in charge of a publisher's

packet is like putting Bernie Oaklyn in charge of the players' publication"? True, Bruce did some questionable things in his 'zine, such as throwing players out of games (he says it was "GM deception", while others disagree) and writing house rules which tried to cover every situation - and, to Keith Sherwood's dismay, when they didn't, Bruce came up with controversial (er, cONTROVersial) decisions (for those of you who don't know, Keith used "TRO" as an abbreviation for Tyrolia, which Bruce didn't accept), but how many pubbers can say that they consistently published more than 20 issues per year, or filled four games within one month after announcing the openings? (I still suggest putting this publication in the names of all contributors, with a "Editor: Bruce Linsey" in the credits.)

OK, how long before someone announces the "other" publishing packet? After all, there's as much chance of John Boardman, the first publisher, writing something for Bruce's packet as there is that every conservative christian in North America will simultaneously admit that Dungeons & Dragons isn't a tool of the devil after all.

The latest GAME NEWS magazine (well, number 12, anyway) has the following Avalon Hill (er, TAHGC) and Victory Games titles which are scheduled to be released sometime before ORIGINS (usually, a few titles make it out in March or April, while others appear at ORIGINS over July 4 weekend):

TAHGC - not including any of the RUNEQUEST stuff, the only titles are OD ("an odd card game") and 1830 (an American version of the British rail game 1829).

VG - besides the JAMES BOND stuff, there's BATTLE HYMN (a Pacific version of AMBUSH, but I don't think you need AMBUSH to play this like you do for MOVE OUT and PURPLE HEART), KOREA (the Korean War - the only other strategic Korean game I've seen is GDW's old YALU), and AEGEAN STRIKE (GULF STRIKE in the Aegean Sea area).

WHAT IS THE WORLD COMING TO WHEN....Nova's latest announcement of four new LOST WORLDS books includes a Winged Gargoyle, a Cleric (with Cleric spells, I suppose), and two books in their Lord of the Rings series, Gandalf and Balrog.

(How about a LORDS OF THE RING series -
Sgt. Slaughter vs. the Iron Shiek?)

What next - C3PO
and R2D2?

Good night!

~~-GAME-OPENINGS-HOUSE-OPENINGS-APARTMENT-OPENINGS-GRAND-OPENINGS-WIDE-OPENINGS-OP~~



1830 - Avalon Hill's soon-to-be-released railway game (forget about RAIL BARON - with 1830, you make your own paths). Keep looking for more details.

RAILWAY RIVALS - (will not be played if 1830 fills first) Made by Games Workshop

(not to be confused with GDW). More on this when it's released out here.

DIPLOMACY - GM Dick Martin. There must be seven people out there trying to find another game. Well, this is the place! Step right up - no game fees needed.

STANDBYS - needed for Diplomacy and Kingmaker. Standbys get 50¢ for their first orders, 50¢ for their second, and \$1 for finishing the game. (Money refers to 'zine credit - but you can apply it to ANY 'zine.) Current Dip list: Caruso, Ehli, Ferguson, Johnson, Peel, Wilson, Young.

TALES OF THE ARABIAN KNIGHTS - well, I'm thinking on how this can be PBMed. The current FTF rules make it too easy to cheat in PBM by looking at the results of all reactions for an encounter and then choosing the most favorable one. There are (at least) two solutions: have each reaction chosen randomly, or make the encounter chart die roll in secret (for character encounters, randomly select one of the three numbers) and have the player select his reaction (if it is not allowed, a random choice is made). The only problem: this takes some of the player's actions out of the game (true, choosing a reaction was mainly guesswork) - the only thing the players do is decide where to move. Additional word on this one later....

DIP WARZ

The campaigning is getting more and more intense in these last few days before the latest election for EMPEROR OF THE DIPLOMATIC EMPIRE takes place. The two major candidates, Lord Sacks Fifthavenue, representing the Living Empire party - "If I am re-elected, the empire LIVES - if not, I can't guarantee anything" - and Rod Seaparter, representing the Rebel party. Excuse me, but there's a news bulletin ordered by THE EMPEROR to be broadcast over all subspace frequencies....

"Attention! THE EMPEROR has announced today that he has ordered that the Rebel Party is hereby, herewith, heretofore, and here&there illegal, and anything that looks like a meeting of Rebel party members - in fact, anything that, in THE EMPEROR'S opinion, could be considered as anything resembling a Rebel party meeting - will be broken up along with the bones of those attending. Those claiming innocence will be charged with calling THE EMPEROR a liar and will therefore be subjected to INCREDIBLY painful and THOROUGHLY agonizing treatments that all traitors deserve. Furthermore, all known Rebel hangouts, planets with the word "Rebel" in them, and just about anything beginning with the letter "R" and ending in a consonant, just to be on the safe side, will be wiped out. On a lighter note, THE EMPEROR has also allowed the use of small letters when referring to him, since he's such a NICE guy."

And now DIP WARZ brings you highlights of the Emperor's campaign on the pro-Rebel Biko-Hall planet, Berkeley star system. The usual assortment of massed bands, laser light shows, death threats, things like that, haven't worked here, so the Emperor is going all-out with the massed stunt fleet representing 89 pro-Empire planets. Unfortunately, the inhabitants were so unimpressed that they managed to form a very large spell-out of "SEAPARTER" on the planetary surface. Too bad it was a suicide stunt fleet, which, for its final act, decided to dive directly into the Berkeley star, creating a flare which managed to wipe out most of the Biko-Hall population, and turning some of the survivors into giant THINGS with six - well, there are six, whatever they are - and eight or nine - or maybe even 10? Meanwhile, there's a capacity crowd of something in excess of 100,000 along with TRILLIONS of video viewers tuned in to the Mean-Gene planet in the Incredible Bulk system, for the INTERPLANETARY HYPERWRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP between the current champion, Bulk Bogus, and the current victim - er, challenger - King Kong Porky, with his manager Bobby the Brainless.

"There's the ball - the Bulkster leaps out of his corner, while Porky pretty much bounces into the center of the ring. There's a grapple, with The Bulk throwing Porky into the ropes - he comes off and Bulk sends him down with a drop kick! Now it's Bulk with an elbow into the chest. Porky manages to get up, but Bulk throws him into the corner and follows up with another elbow - the ropes are really shaking after that one!"

We'll return for the conclusion of that match later.

What about the upcoming election? What about THE BOURSE? What about that piece of steel in Bobby the Brainless' pocket? You'll have to wait until next time, I suppose....

XENOLOGIC

DipCon at MaryCon '86

DipCon at MaryCon '86 is a three-day Diplomacy and Diplomacy variant tournament, Friday, May 30 through Sunday, June 1, on the campus of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA (50 minutes south of Washington, D.C. on interstate 95 - ground transportation available hourly from Washington National Airport). Those unable to arrive before Saturday can still participate in DipCon, the annual national Diplomacy championship, by selecting DipCon (option #2). A minimum of two rounds of Diplomacy must be played to be eligible for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place plaques, or the seven "best country" trophies.

Friday events: VariMaryCon (Diplomacy variant tournament), Tournament of Champions (one-round tournament for 7 top placers of past MaryCons), first round DipCon (standard Diplomacy tournament, run by the national DipCon administrative committee), round table seminar with Allen Calhmer (inventor of Diplomacy), and open gaming beer party. Saturday events: additional rounds DipCon, DipCon Society meeting (which will select the site of 1987 DipCon), and open gaming beer party. Sunday events: final round DipCon, and awards ceremony.

For additional information on travel, schedule, or other matters, contact MaryCon at the address below (see form), or contact Ken Peel, 8708 First Ave. #T-2, Silver Spring, MD 20910, tel.# (301) 495-2799.

PRICE PACKAGES INCLUDE:

VariMaryCon* (May 30) lunch, dinner, beer party, lodging;
(May 31) breakfast.

VariMaryCon (local) (May 30) lunch, dinner, beer party.

DipCon (option #1) (May 30) dinner, evening beer party, lodging;
(May 31) breakfast, lunch, dinner, beer party, lodging;
(June 1) breakfast, lunch.

DipCon* (option #2) (May 31) lunch, dinner, beer party, lodging;
(June 1) breakfast, lunch.

DipCon (local) (May 31) lunch, dinner, beer party; (June 1) lunch.

*Those attending both VariMaryCon and DipCon should select

"VariMaryCon" and "DipCon (option #2)." Total cost = \$87.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL. #: _____

() VariMaryCon*.....\$35
() VariMaryCon (local)..\$20
() DipCon (option #1)...\$77
() DipCon* (option #2)..\$52
() DipCon (local).....\$32

Total enclosed: \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "MARYCON," AND MAIL TO:

MaryCon '86
1309 Hanover Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

NOTE: Every effort will be made to room you with the person(s) of your choice. All rooms are double occupancy and are connected to another room (total of 4 persons). Sheets and pillow cases are provided. You must supply your own blankets.

A Publisher's Handbook -- an Idea Whose Time has Come (Again)

by Bruce Linsey

I've recently been in touch with a number of postal Diplomacy's most accomplished GMs and publishers on the topic of producing a Publisher's Handbook. The idea seems to have generated a groundswell of support (not to mention a number of articles already), and I seem to have a bit of spare time and energy on my hands these days, so all systems are go.

The Handbook, which is going to be named Beyond Supernova, will be a collection of essays and other information designed to guide new or potential publishers and GMs. This is a service that the North American hobby hasn't had since the seventies, so we'll be filling a definite gap by producing it. Mike Barno, probably expressing a lot of people's viewpoints, writes, "I wish...a good Publisher's Handbook in general had been available when I was getting in."

I am soliciting pertinent articles from any hobbyist who cares to contribute. In order to avoid duplication of efforts, you might want to check with me before actually writing anything just to make sure the topic isn't already covered by someone else. To give you a quick idea of what's on tap already, or what I have already asked specific people to write, here's a rundown:

Mark Berch, helpful as always, has written several articles. These include "How Much of 'Yourself' to Put into your Zine", a short essay on addressing, and another on specializing. He will also be writing on the subzine route.

Hon (Canada) Brown's "Advice to the Novice Pubber" will be printed here, as will two of my own articles on publishing (one on how to get people to write for your zine, the other a satirical look at non-publishing).

I hope to get permission from Doug Beyerlein to run some of his material about GMing and publishing, as Doug is one of the most sensible and straightforward writers the hobby has ever had. Randolph Smyth once wrote an insightful article about GMing dilemmas which I hope to include.

Fred Davis will be writing a brief essay on GMing variants if his time permits. Knowing Fred, he'll likely come through.

Mike Barno's views on strict GMing are diametrically opposed to my own, so he and I will be writing a dialogue/debate on the pros and cons of that question, not with the idea of either side "winning", but of exposing new GMs to both viewpoints. I've asked Paul Rauterberg to take the "con" side in a similar debate on the merits of comprehensive house rules, though I haven't yet heard back from him.*

I've asked, or will be asking, for material from many other writers. In particular, I'm hoping for something on the Orphan Service from Jim Burgess, a summary of the BNC's role from Bill Quinn, the use of computers in publishing from Dave Kleiman, the evolution of Diplomacy publishing from that hyperliterate old-timer Conrad von Metzke, guest-GMing from Jeff Richmond (who did a lot of it, and very well, before he started Frobozz). And maybe others will want to contribute. Rod Walker, Ken Peel, Alan Stewart, Bruce McIntyre, Gary Coughlan, Steve Hutton, Larry Peery and Steve Knight are just a few names that leap to mind, and from whom I'll be seeking written material.

To back up all these efforts from current North American hobbyists, I'll probably be reprinting some material from the old IDA Handbook and from the British Handbook.

Finally, I've covered a few topics on my own: deciding whether or not to publish, taking the plunge, ethics. I have some other ideas as well.

As you can see, we've already got quite a potential lineup. Still, I'm looking for additional relevant material from anyone who wishes to contribute. All contributors will receive a complimentary copy of BS. If you have an idea for an article (preferably on a topic not already mentioned), please let me know by early or mid-April. Submissions should be in my hands no later than early May, let's say May 9. That will give me time to get the final product ready for initial distribution at DipCon, if all goes well. Who among you would like to contribute to this effort?

Thank you,

* Late note: Good news! I just spoke with Paul Rauterberg, and he will be helping to write the "house rules" dialogue.

Bruce Linsey

RuneStone

1986 RUNESTONE ZINE POLL BALLOT

<input type="checkbox"/> The Alamo City Times	<input type="checkbox"/> Fol Si Fie	<input type="checkbox"/> Praxis	PLEASE
<input type="checkbox"/> Alpha & Omega	<input type="checkbox"/> Frobozz	<input type="checkbox"/> The Prince	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Appalachian General	<input type="checkbox"/> The Gamer's Zine (CT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Protozoan	
<input type="checkbox"/> Appalling Greed	<input type="checkbox"/> Graustark	<input type="checkbox"/> The Razor's Edge	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Armchair Diplomat	<input type="checkbox"/> Hail! Jikail!	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebel	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benzene	<input type="checkbox"/> Hansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Redwood Curtain	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bersaglieri	<input type="checkbox"/> The Inner Light	<input type="checkbox"/> Retaliation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Big Hite of Mid-America	<input type="checkbox"/> Italiano Pribe	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleepless Knights	
<input type="checkbox"/> Boast	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a Trap!	<input type="checkbox"/> So I Lied!	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Boob Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Kaissa	<input type="checkbox"/> Stabback	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo Steak Tartare	<input type="checkbox"/> Known Game Openings	<input type="checkbox"/> Tacky	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushwacker	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberterrean	<input type="checkbox"/> Ter-ran	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Buzzard's Breath	<input type="checkbox"/> Life of Monty	<input type="checkbox"/> Thirty Miles of Bad Road	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Canadian Diplomat	<input type="checkbox"/> Lone Star Diplomat	<input type="checkbox"/> This Bud's for You	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cathy's Ramblings	<input type="checkbox"/> Macabre	<input type="checkbox"/> Touché	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheesecake	<input type="checkbox"/> Magus	<input type="checkbox"/> The Vortex	
<input type="checkbox"/> Command	<input type="checkbox"/> Microphage	<input type="checkbox"/> Whitestonia	
<input type="checkbox"/> Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Midlife Crisis	<input type="checkbox"/> Winsome Losesome	
<input type="checkbox"/> Costaguana	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike's Mag	<input type="checkbox"/> Xenogogic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy Digest	<input type="checkbox"/> Murd'ring Ministers	<input type="checkbox"/> Yee, Virginia,...Santa Claus	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy World	<input type="checkbox"/> No Fixed Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Yggdrasill Chronicle	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diplomag	<input type="checkbox"/> North Seath, West George	<input type="checkbox"/> The Zine Register	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Diplomat	<input type="checkbox"/> The Not for Hire	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Diplomat Times	<input type="checkbox"/> Not New York	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dippy (Jim Benes' zine)	<input type="checkbox"/> The Orphanage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> The Dragon's Lair	<input type="checkbox"/> Quinipique	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Europa Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Paranoiac Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Everything	<input type="checkbox"/> Perelandra	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excelsior	<input type="checkbox"/> Politesse	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Feuilletonist's Forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pomme Mit Mayo	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

INSTRUCTIONS: You may rate any publication substantially devoted to Diplomacy of which you have seen at least two issues since April 1, 1985. Rate the series, not individual issues. Rate each zine on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being the lowest possible rating, 10 the highest). No fractions, please. Do not rate your own publication. I reserve the right not to tabulate ballots which do not follow the format outlined above.

Send your ballot to Bruce Linsey, 73 Ashuelot St., Apt. 3, Dalton, MA 01226 (USA) or to Nelson Heintzman, P.O. Box 203, Bowmansville, NY 14026 (USA). Deadline for votes to Bruce is June 28, 1986. Deadline for votes to Nelson is June 21, 1986. PLEASE VOTE EARLY.

Please rate North American zines only, though any readers or players living outside North America are welcome to participate.

Indicate one way in which you participate in the Diplomacy hobby (sub to Zine XII, play in game 1985YY, etc.): _____

Signature: _____ (If your ballot isn't signed, or I can't tell who you are, it will not be counted!)

Print your name neatly: _____

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE POLL RESULTS BY MAIL, including an in-depth statistical analysis, check this space ☐ and enclose \$1.00 U.S. (to Bruce Linsey) with your ballot. The results publication is called The Cream Shall Rise!, and it will be sent out in early July.

*** DON'T FORGET TO SIGN YOUR BALLOT! ***

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'86

E VOTE!

1986 RUNESTONE SUBZINE POLL BALLOT

___ At Your Service	___ Flick of the Wrist	___ Shadowplay
___ Bahnhof Zoo	___ Fnord	___ The Space Viking
___ The Beholder	___ Friend or Foe	___ Strange Doings
___ Bottoms Up	___ Hare of the Dog	___ Submarine Warfare
___ But I'm Happy	___ High Inertia	___ 12 Pages of Homosexual Crap
___ Butter Battles	___ High Plains Conzo	___ U.\$. Dollar\$
___ Chomps & Miams	___ Hobbytalk!	___ Vertigo
___ Club Voltaire	___ Humboldt	___ Who Cares?
___ The Compleat Diplomat	___ Kathy's Korner	___ THE THRILL OF ALONY
___ Conference Call	___ Khomerex Zha	___ THE VICTORY OF DEFEAT
___ Corn Off the Cobb	___ Magnificent 7	___
___ D-Day!	___ The Megadiplomat	___
___ Debi's Filler	___ Much Ado About Nothing	___
___ Diplomacy by Moonlight	___ Only Yesterday	___
___ E*S*A*D	___ Orphan City	___
___ Expletive Deleted	___ Revolt Against the Masses	___
___ Father Knows Less	___ Savonlinna	___
___ Fiat Bellum	___ Screed	___

(Blank spaces are for any I've neglected to list.)

1986 RUNESTONE GM POLL BALLOT

Please list GMs alphabetically by surname, going down the columns.

Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name	Vote	GM's Name
___	_____	___	_____	___	_____
___	_____	___	_____	___	_____
___	_____	___	_____	___	_____
___	_____	___	_____	___	_____
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___	_____	___	_____	___	_____
___	_____	___	_____	___	_____

INSTRUCTIONS: Instructions for the Subzine Poll are the same as for the Zine Poll -- 0 to 10 scale, do not rate your own publication, etc.

In the GM Poll, you may rate any Diplomacy GM in whose postal game or games you were a player at any time after April 1, 1985, and under whom you played for long enough to gain an objective assessment of his or her competence as a GM. Gamesmasters may not rate themselves. Others may not rate GMs in whose games they were not active during the polling period. Rate each GM by NAME, not by zine. Distinguish between Ron Brown of California and Ron Brown of Canada if you vote for either or both.

Again, the rating scale is from 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest possible vote and 10 the highest. No fractions, please. Rate North American GMs only, though players living outside North America are welcome to participate.

Scoring will be essentially the same as in 1985. A copy of the scoring system as published in The Cream Shall Rise #1 is available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All votes will be kept confidential (but please note that Nelson Meintzman, who will be conducting an independent check of the results, will see them). A voter list will be published again this year.

Indicate one way in which you participate in the Diplomacy hobby (sub to Zine XXX, play in game 1985YY, etc.): _____

Signature: _____

(If your ballot isn't signed, or I can't tell who you are, it will not be counted!)

Print your name neatly: _____

AIR FARE TO DIPCON '86

U.S. Air has agreed to work with our group and have provided some very reasonable rates for DipCon attendees. There will be three groups, each with a different fare. Each group is required to have at least 20 people buying tickets, and we have space available for as many as 50. Here are the cities, flight and fare information:

<u>City/ Flight</u>	<u>Departs</u>	<u>Arrives</u>	<u>Fare</u>
Chicago to Washington			\$215
ORD to PIT			
AL 486	9:50am	12:03pm	
PIT to IAD			
AL 52	1:00pm	1:59pm	
DCA to PIT			
AL 43	5:55pm	6:45pm	
PIT to ORD			
AL 253	7:20pm	7:40pm	
Houston to Washington			\$246
IAH to PIT			
AL 90	8:45am	12:13pm	
PIT to IAD			
AL 52	1:00pm	1:59pm	
DCA to PIT			
AL 43	5:55pm	6:45pm	
PIT to IAH			
AL 5	8:00pm	10:00pm	
Los Angeles to Washington			\$298
LAX to PIT			
AL 28	8:05am	3:17pm	
PIT to IAD			
AL 386	4:35pm	5:31pm	
IAD to PIT			
AL 184	4:00pm	5:02pm	
PIT to LAX			
AL 27	5:45pm	7:36pm	

All of the flights will be arriving in DC Friday and leaving DC on Sunday, and these are the round trip prices. You can have your tickets sent back by registered mail for an additional \$3, or sent by regular mail free. We will hold all the money until April 15, which is the deadline. If we get the twenty people that we need from your area, then we will issue the ticket on that date and send it out. If there aren't enough people to make the group then we have two options: either return your money or make alternative arrangements. The reverse of this letter is the order form.

For those of you who don't know, IAD is Dulles Airport, about 25 miles west of DC, and DCA is National Airport, on the west bank of the Potomac just outside of DC.

KINGMAKER, TURN 7 - EDMUND GETS ST. PATRICK'S DAY SURPRISE

ORDER OF THE RAMPANT LION (see below)

NEVILLE remains at Baby
GREY, GREYSTOKE, and POLE
(Kenilworth(g))-h3a-Eccleshall-
Newcastle-w7-Rhuddlan(g)

WACKY WABBITS OF WONDERLAND (Gestiehr)

BOURCHIER, CLIFFORD, and PLANTAGENET-
LANCASTER (h40)-Bath-h31-h28-
Tewkesbury-h3
STAFFORD remains at Leeds
BEAUFORT remains at Corfe

BAVARIAN INFILTRATION (Solomon)

MOWBRAY remains at Wrassle

SACRED ORDER OF THE MIRACULOUS PANTY-HOSE (Mazzer)

CROMWELL and Le NICHOLAS
(Chichester)-s20-s22-s24-Calais

WHITE DUCHESS (Ozog)

HOLLAND, Le LUCAS, and Le ROSE
(Milford Haven)-s9-s7-s4-s1-
Dublin

RAMPANT ROYALISTS (Wilson)

AUDLEY (Rochester)-Blackheath-
Windsor-Wallingford
FITZALAN (Conisboro)-Shrewsbury(g)
via road
PLANTAGENET-YORK (Harlech(g))-
w8-w9-w10-Chirk-Shrewsbury(g)

COMBAT: Well, none - Holland walks into Dublin and controls Edmund after he imbibes one too many Irish whiskies, and the gang at Rhuddlan are a few men short.

SPECIAL NOTES: Beginning with turn 8, the Order of the Rampant Lion will be controlled by Robert M. Miller, 2912 W. 141st Place #2, Gardena, CA 90247. (Robert, you can change the faction name if you want to.) Apparently, the player controlling the Bavarian Infiltration has not renewed his expired sub - since he wasn't in a faction, the following cards are moved around: Mowbray, Howard, Cairsbroke City, Lancaster City, Bristol City, and two free moves go to the discard piles; Archbishop of Canterbury, Chamberlain of the County Palatine of Chester, Steward of the Royal Household, Marshal of England, and Earl of Westmorland go to Chancery. In addition, only five event cards are drawn per turn.

TURN 7 CROWN CARD (all of your crown and holding cards will be listed)

Catastrophe is no longer in effect.

TURN 8 EVENT CARDS: non-event to Miller; FRENCH RAID (no effect); STORMS AT SEA (no effect); non-event to Solomon (discarded); STORMS AT SEA (no effect); REVOLT IN WALES (Fitzalan to Chirk, Plantagenet-York to Stokestay).

DEADLINE for TURN 8 is APRIL 17. Here's the press - after I say that next turn's road movement is in phase 5:

DUBLIN: The White Duchess was drinking wine with Holland as they sailed to the island of Ireland. "My lady, how did you get me this job? It works so well with our plans."

"Never ask a Lady her secrets, my dear Holland. I always had a soft spot for Edmond. And now that dear Richard is dead, it is my duty to protect Edmond."

"Yes, my duchess." Holland smiled and kissed her hand.

In Dublin, the people were cheering to see the Lieutenant of Ireland. Edmond came out to see what all the noise was about. Holland came forward bringing a Lady covered by veils. Edmond wondered who she was. She carried a white rose in her hands.

"Dear Edmond," she said with a husky voice, "I must tell you that your brother Richard is dead. I wish to protect you from his fate."

He caught a glimpse of her face and lead her towards his bedroom. They did not come out again. Holland smiled and kicked back in his chair. At last he was heading somewhere.

WWW ABOUT SOMPH: When I saw that mean master of deceit - Mazzer - head south, I thought, "What evil tricks is he up to?" After all, Mike was a Nixon award winner for his exploits at Diplomacy. So quite hurriedly I headed south to protect my holdings. How could I possibly hold up against the expert? Then before my eyes, nothing happened. Mazzer went

by peaceably. Then it dawned on me! Of course Mazzer was nice. After all, Trix are for rabbits!

S.O.M.P.H.: Lord Cromwell arrived at Calais to collect the remains of his deceased cousin, Lord Roos. Meanwhile, the besotted ((??)) Duke of Clarence found his way to the nearest bordello, the only one left untouched by the pox. Cromwell, meanwhile, mused over his Bordeaux, "My Lady, the White Duchess is off to Ireland, and the forces of the Prince of Wales and the Bitch of Anjou are terrorizing England. My good cousin, the Duke of York, is in grave peril from their clutches. And England has no King. Methinks I'll stay in France...." OUTSIDE OF HARLECH: "Idiot! Knave!" shouted the Duke of York at a small, mouse-like man in a long, black robe covered with stars and crescents next to him. The caped figure kept his eyes low as he responded:

"My liege, these spells have never been known to fail. They're specifically made in Transylvania for capturing walled cities."

"Hmm, yes", said the Duke as he watched the remains of his army shrink back from the ramparts of Harlech, mangled by his son's garrison. "But, Merlin, here they failed. That means you failed. Men who fail me lose their heads."

"My liege, I will try again. I will use the Italian Valor spell and kill three toads..."

"Try again! Another such try and I shall have no army!" cried the Duke. He glowered at his magician. At that moment, a messenger rode up to the Duke.

"Sire, the Earl of Salisbury has landed in Wales with a large power."

The Duke sighed and thought of his lecherous, drunken son, hidden in Harlech Castle with his chief reveler Sir John Risestafe. He thought of his magician's incompetence. And he thought of the Throne.

"To Shrewsbury!" he called, adding to Merlin, "You're lucky." The Duke would pursue the reformation of Edmund later - now, battle loomed.

ORDER OF THE RAMPANT LION

NEVILLE, Shrewsbury City, Northampton City (50), with Edward of Lancaster
GREYSTOKE (10)

GREY, Earl of Worcester (50)

POLE, Burgundian Crossbowmen (60)

SACRED ORDER OF THE MIRACULOUS PANTY-HOSE - control Calais

CROMWELL, Earl of Richmond, Scots Archers (70), with George

WACKY WABBITS OF WONDERLAND - control Coventry

BOURCHIER, Earl of Wiltshire (40)

CLIFFORD, Duke of Exeter (30)

STAFFORD (30)

PLANTAGENET LANCASTER (30)

BEAUFORT (30), with Margaret

WHITE DUCHESS

HOLLAND, Earl of Salisbury, Lt. of Ireland, Scots Archers, Ipswich City,
La Lucas, Le Rose (120/320), with Edmund

RAMPANT ROYALISTS - control Conisboro, Kenilworth

FITZALAN, Treasurer of England, Flemish Crossbowmen (100)

PLANTAGENET YORK (50)

AUDLEY, Earl of Kent, Warden of the Northern Marches (90/190), with Richard
of York

REMAINING NOBLES: Henry and Richard of Gloucester are dead; Edward of
March is in Harlech.

Unless otherwise noted next to faction names, factions control all cities on their crown cards (except, of course, for cards still in hands/not yet played). Numbers indicate strength of nobles; a slash stands for minimum/maximum strengths.

And now, as a public service, LOM now presents a little WHITE SPACE for calculating the question of Life, the Universe, and Everything (to which the answer is 42):

DIPLOMACY 1984CI, WINTER 1907/SPRING 1908....TRAFFIC ON THE ROME-
VENICE-TYROLIA-BOHEMIA-SILESIA-BERLIN-KIEL EXPRESS IS PICKING UP
WINTER 1907: ENGLAND builds A EDI, RUSSIA builds A WAR, ITALY builds
A ROM and A VEN

SPRING 1908

ENGLAND (Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville, MD 20854)
A Bel-PIC, F ENG-Mao, F Bar-NWG, A STP H, F Ber-KIE, A HOL S F Ber-Kie,
F LVP H, F Nth-LON, F DEN S F Ber-Kie, A EDI S F Lvp

FRANCE (Jim Bjornsson, 7300 Boris Court #1, Rohnert Park, CA 94928)
~~NOR NOR NOR NOR NOR~~ F WES, F IRI, F MAO, A BUR, A WAL, A MUN, A RUH,
F Kie(d/retreat to Bel, Bal, OTB)

ITALY (Mark Stegeman, 7 Banks Street #1, Cambridge, MA 02138)
F ION-Tun, F TYH-Tun, F NAP H, A Tyo-BOH, A Boh-SIL, A GAL S A Boh-Sil,
A Con-SMY, F Aeg-CON, F Smy-AEG, A Rom-VEN, A Ven-TYO

RUSSIA (Ken Peel, 8708 First Avenue #T-2, Silver Spring, MD 20910)
A Sil-BER, A Ank-ARM, A PRU S A Sil-Ber, A MOS S A War-Lvn, A War-LVN

STANDBY - CALLING THE STANDBY: Will DAN YOUNG, 5225 Dawes Avenue,
Culver City, CA, submit orders for France?

DEADLINE for SUMMER 1908 retreat and FALL 1908 orders is APRIL 18.
Now for the press....

ITA-ENG: Of course I'm not mad at you! I'm just emulating your pace
of correspondence.

ENGLAND-FRANCE: Here's looking at you, kid.

ENGLAND-GM: Mike gets LOM for doing FNORD? Where? And players are
just flocking to my new game opening, too!

GM-ENGLAND: The deal was that Mike got a lifetime sub (so did Derwood
Bowen and Dustin Laurence, although Dustin is missing in non-
action (i.e. I don't know his address)) (besides, there were only
two issues of THE SPACE VIKING).

MACINTOSH-ATARI: Invest in a real printer!

ATARI-MACINTOSH: Invest in a real computer! (Soon to be out: the 1040ST,
with over 1000K (yes, over 1 MEGabyte) of RAM, plus built-in 3 1/2
inch drive and color monitor, for \$1199 - well, the monitor isn't
"built-in", just the drive. And, the rumors are that there's
a design for a 4-megabyte RAM Atari.) Say, are you a CompuServe
member?

~~-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-LATE-NEWS-~~

Take a close look at the Runestone Poll ballot. Notice something?
Once again, and despite news to the contrary, Bruce Linsey has put
"Whitestonia" in the 'zine list and "Kathy's Korner" in the subzine list.
You W/KK readers (like me) know that both John and Kathy refer to the
entire 'zine as W/KK (occasionally, KK/W) and that KK is a part of the
'zine, not a subzine. How was this sort of thing handled in the past?
Well, when THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD and MIDLIFE CRISIS combined to form
THIRTY MILES OF MIDLIFE CRISIS, the combined 'zine never appeared in
the poll, although both parts were considered 'zines in the poll.

Personally, I think that, if the publishers say that neither W nor KK
is a subzine, then neither should be treated as one - but it's a little
late for this year. (I don't suggest that you boycott the poll - if
you want to show support, why don't you cross out KK in the subzine
section and write in W/KK in the 'zine section (in the WHITESTONIA
space)?

Well, that ends yet another issue. Not much of my stuff this time,
mainly because I spent four days in Washington, D.C. just before this
was duplicated and mailed. (Apparently, I'm the only person in the
Civil Service that can install security AND database software without
botching the job up - well, would you believe the only person in my
department? In the building where I work? You get the idea....)
Until next time, remember that next issue will contain the results of
THE LIFERS (if I'm lucky - the duplicating date is the day after the
deadline), plus the other usual stuff that you LOVE to read every time.

ONLY IN AMERICA....can a 9-month LA-to-Washington march with \$4 million
go broke while still in California.

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GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1339
USA



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